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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 17898 161046Z

17-12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /107 W
---------- 011493
R 160913Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8307

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: HONG KONG SITUATION REPORT

REF: HONG KONG 11356

1. REFTEL IS REPEATED FOR INFORMATION SECSTATE. DEA SAIC SHOSTROM AND HONG KONG NARCOTICS BUREAU CSP RUMBELOW DISCUSSED CURRENT HONG KONG NARCOTICS SITUATION ON 12 NOVEMBER 1973. THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE DRUG SCENE HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY:

2. THE WHOLESALE PRICE OF MORPHINE BASE IN HONG KONG IS BASIC INDICATOR OF THE AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS IN THE COLONY. WHOLESALE PRICES FOR MORPHINE BASE WERE RELATIVELY STABLE THROUGH JULY 1972 AT US$ 661.00/KILOGRAM. SINCE THAT TIME THE PRICES HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS:
JULY 1 US$661.00/KILO; AUG 1 US$1,936.00/KILO; SEP 1 US$1848.00/KILO; OCT 1 US$1,760.00/KILO; NOV 1 US$2200.00/KILO. ON NOV 10 THE MORPHINE BASE PRICE SKYROCKETED TO US$3,740.00 PER KILO, AN INCREASE OF US$1,540.00/KILO IN JUST TEN DAYS. HKNB SAYS THAT SOURCES OF MORPHINE BASE ARE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT IN THE COLONY AT THIS TIME.

3. HKNB FURTHER STATES THAT THE LARGE WESTERN DISTRICT
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 17898 161046Z

RETAIL SYNDICATE CLOSED DOWN ON 10 NOV 73 HAVING TURNED

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OVER OPERATIONS TO THE MA SHAN RETAIL SYNDICATE. THE MA SHAN SYNDICATE IS REPORTED TO BE ON THE VERGE OF CLOSING DOWN. INTELLIGENCE FURTHER INDICATES THAT ALL RETAIL SYNDICATES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE CLOSED DOWN. THESE ACTIONS HAVE RESULTED FROM THE DECREASING AMOUNTS OF HEROIN AVAILABLE IN THE COLONY.

4. HKNB STATES THAT THE SYNDICATES HAVE BEEN ABSORBING THE INCREASED PRICES OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS, RATHER THAN PASS THEM ON TO THE CONSUMER. HOWEVER, THIS PAST WEEK THE RETAIL PRICE FOR AN ADDICT SIZE PACKET OF NO. THREE HEROIN JUMPED FROM HK$5.00(US$1.00) TO HK$10.00(US$2.00). CSP RUMBELOW STATED THAT FROM ALL INDICATIONS THERE WILL BE A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF NUMBER THREE HEROIN IN THE COLONY WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS.

5. NUMBER FOUR HEROIN IS REPORTED AT THIS TIME TO BE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

6. CSP RUMBELOW SAID THAT ABOUT EIGHT-FIVE PERCENT OF THE COLONY'S OPIUM DIVANS WERE CLOSED DOWN FOLLOWING A RECENT ANTI-CRIME CAMPAIGN. THEY ESTIMATE THAT ABOUT SIXTY-PERCENT OF THE OPIUM ADDICTS HAVE TURNED TO USING OPIUM PILLS, TWENTY PERCENTHAVE TURNED TO NUMBER THREE HEROIN. TEN PERCENT ARE BELIEVED STILL SMOKING OPIUM AND TEN PERCENT ARE SEEKING TREATMENT. OPIUM CONTINUES TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY, BUT BECAUSE OF THE DECREASE IN OPIUM USAGE, THE PRICE HAS NOT SKY ROCKETED LIKE MORPHINE BASE AND NUMBER THREE HEROIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, HEROIN, MORPHINE, OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, PRICE TRENDS, DRUG TREATMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO17898
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731130/aaaaavty.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
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